



## CONNECTICUT CHARTS-A-COURSE

Supporting Careers in Early Education and School-Age Care

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To: Senator Harp, Representative Walker, Representative Dillon, and Members of the Appropriations Committee, Room 2700, Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106

From: Darlene Ragozzine, Executive Director and Deborah Flis, Director, Accreditation and Quality Initiatives

Re: Connecticut Commission on Children

Date: March 1, 2011

### **Connecticut Charts-A-Course supports the Commission on Children**

We are writing in support of the Connecticut Commission on Children, an organization dedicated to ensuring health, safety, school success and freedom from poverty for children in Connecticut.

The Commission on Children is a unique and critical advocate, resource, and information source on issues regarding the status of children in Connecticut. Their work in the legislature, with community organizations, and on behalf of children and families is a hallmark of this state.

The Commission on Children leads efforts such as Parent Leadership Training (PLTI) including fatherhood and grandparent initiatives, support for health activities such as obesity prevention, bullying prevention and anti-poverty initiatives. There is no other organization in our state so focused on children, a population without a voice in our government.

An example of the ground breaking nature of the efforts of the Commission on Children is the current engagement in work to support the planning and implementation of disaster responses that will address the needs of young children. This work is unique across the country, not only in its content, but in the number and diversity of organizations that are contributing to the effort. Led by a committee tri-chaired by the Commission on Children, Department of Social Services, and Department of Public Health, partners include representatives from the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, FEMA, Save the Children, 211 (InfoLine) and early childhood trainers and providers. The Commission has gathered the experts and not only issued a call to action on disaster response but has acted to address the needs of programs suffering the effects of roof collapses and damage due to this year's harsh winter.

It is imperative that Connecticut continue to benefit from the visionary and lasting effects of the efforts of the Connecticut Commission on Children. A state investment in this organization serves all children and families in Connecticut.